

REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 7-10, and 16-18 are pending and under consideration. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a case interview for the above-identified case.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 7-10, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Japanese patent no. 2000278393 A (Ogawa).

Ogawa discloses a receiver that updates its telephone directory according to a received message indicating a phone number change. The Examiner states that paragraphs 0005, 0006, 0008, and 0015 discloses the present invention. The translation of Ogawa appears to have been performed by a machine and also appears to be defective. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide another translation, is possible.

Paragraph 0008 of Ogawa provides that "Mr. A" sends "Mr. B" a message including [phone number change code (*9*9)], [old number (0901111111)], [delimiter (*)], and [new number (0901222222)] in that order. Upon receipt of the message, the receiver of Mr. B parses the message and updates its local phone directory with the received information. Paragraphs 0005 and 0006 are essentially an apparatus claim version and a method claim version of paragraph 0008. Paragraph 0015 describes an application of Ogawa's invention to more than just telephone directories (e.g., application to a personal address book).

In the specification of the present invention, Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 9-284379 is referenced as an example of a conventional technique. The Japanese publication provides disclosure similar to the above-described feature of Ogawa, that is, sending a notification message to individual peer receivers. As can be seen from the specification of the present invention, at page 2, lines 2-10 and 22-25, the trouble of making a phone call (or sending a message) to all parties who may have the sender's phone number in their directories is addressed. That is, in the context of the present invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would avoid the approach of Ogawa and the Japanese publication identified in the specification of the present invention.

Moreover, the Ogawa reference discloses nothing about a data center of a telephone network system. The present invention, on the other hand, takes advantage of a data center which stores telephone directory information, not only of the person who wishes to change his/her phone number, but also of other people who may have the phone number to be changed.

To identify which directories need updates, the present invention involves two stages of directory search, that is, searching the first backup copy and then searching the second backup copy based on the result of the first search. The Ogawa reference does not involve the latter search. Mr. A sends a phone number change to Mr. B, assuming that the directory of Mr. B contains Mr. A's phone number.

Most telephone sets with a phone directory provide users with a search function. It appears that, in the case of Ogawa, Mr. A may use that search function to find destinations of a phone number change message. This search is, however, different from the first searching unit of claims 16 and 18 or the corresponding step of claim 17 of the present invention. The first searching unit is an element of a device or computer located in the data center, whereas, in Ogawa, a search takes place at the telephone set of Mr. A.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 16, 17, and 18 (claim 17 recites language similar to that of claims 16 and 18) are patentable over Ogawa, as Ogawa fails to disclose, "a first searching unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein," as recited in independent claim 16, for example.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

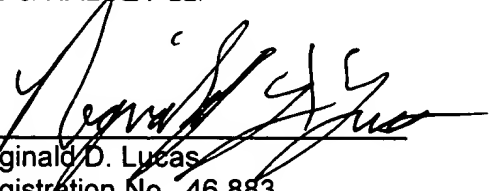
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/14/00

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